

SALINA ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION

June 21, 2006

The monthly meeting of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission was held at the Smoky Hill Museum Community Room at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2006. In attendance were Marilyn Benyshek, David Cooper, Peggy DeBey, Randall Hardy, Luci Larson, Rachel Loersch, Linda Moore, Cheri Parr, Linda Smith, and Ted Zerger. Staff Present: Sharon Benson, Kathy Burlew, Brigid Hall, Susan Hawksworth, John Highkin, Glenda Johnson, and Karla Prickett. Also in attendance: Carmen Wilson, League of Women Voters and April Middleton, Salina Journal. Absent: Trent Davis, Brett Halderman, John K. Vanier II, and Paula Wright. Staff absent: Carrie Carpenter.

Larson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Focus Time: Smoky Hill River Festival Review/Feedback

The Commissioners shared their joys, concerns and suggestions with Festival Staff.

- Great music
- Art cars were a hit
- Artists were happy with the Ambassador Program
- What to do with the pond and water?
- Hillbilly Kettle Korn's played music from their booth and it was too loud
- Concern with the scheduled time for Yoga in the Park - conflicted with the gates opening – barricade wasn't pleasant which made very unhappy people.
- Question on restaurant inspections: Benson - two inspections take place before the booths open and then sometime throughout Friday they are inspected again. There is constant contact with the Health Department. The SHRF pop booth was written up for having melted ice in the cooler. Next step – Food Committee will meet and complete quality reports for each vendor. By law, Kansas is stricter than other states, which is a good thing for the people. Rules will be enforced next year – if vendors aren't in compliance they will not be able to vend at the Festival. Highkin commended Benson, the Health Department and Food Committee on having a safe environment. During the scheduled food vendors meeting (Thursday 3:45 p.m.) there is an on-grounds fire inspection. Issues are discussed before the food guidelines are written for the next year.
- Commissioners encouraged people with comments or suggestions to complete the evaluation that is enclosed in the Festival program.

Minutes

May 17, 2006 minutes correction: sentence should read "The nominating committee will be meeting Monday night to set some parameters, guidelines and review some of the list from last year." Smith motioned to approve the May 17, 2006 minutes with the correction and Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report

Highkin received a letter from Trent Davis stating he would not be able to renew his term due to time constraints. The committee has received several interest forms from

individuals plus a few other names from other commissioners. Cooper – Nominating Committee has met one time and will be meeting again in the next couple of weeks. At the July Commission meeting the Committee will present their recommendations.

Staff Reports

Benyshek – were there different shuttles used for this year? Hall – shuttles were not available so we rented from Apache Trolley shuttles in Nebraska. The Trolleys met our expectations and we were pleased to have them.

City of Salina

Highkin – the City budget is done on calendar year – 2007 budget was due May 19, 2006. Museum budget was based on existing program – the major change is increased or decreased based on salaries. The SAHC budget is based on projected salary and cost of living; have submitted requests for increased infrastructure support through the City than in the past. More information to come at the September meeting.

Benyshek – what infrastructure was submitted? Highkin - telephone, office supplies, employee development.

John Vanier is the new City Commission liaison.

Planning Update & Other Matters (from Executive Director)

Highkin – Consultant Diane Mataraza suggests doing a very detailed assessment throughout the community to define and work toward specific goals and objectives, timelines and benchmarks. Ms. Mataraza says she loves seeing a “dog eared plan” in use. Highkin and Gage have discussed finding comparable plans in size and scale to see what it costs for this type of plan. Parr – good timing in doing this type of planning with SAHC celebrating 40 years.

Highkin attended the Americans for the Arts (AFTA) annual conference and Public Art Network (PAN) pre-conference in Milwaukee. At the two day pre-conference, there was a presentation of the “Year in Review” – 40 public art projects chosen by two jurors as the most interesting among those submitted (about 180 submissions). Artist Matthew Dehaemers submitted his Artists-in-Action piece “Trifecta” from the 2005 River Festival; the piece was chosen by the president of the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design as one of the 40 best projects of 2005 (he said it was his personal favorite). Smith – this is something positive that should be shared with the paper. Prickett – plans to do a news release.

Highkin reported on the Economic Impact Study. There was a meeting in Milwaukee on the study with AFTA staff and representatives from 16 participating communities. The staff at American for the Arts had a glitch with their software – a huge number of organizations received an e-mail from American for the Arts explaining the error in on-line data management (affected 3 Salina organizations). The whole study will be completely finished and published in June 2007. American for the Arts will provide us

with copies of the national report (in three formats) and a copy with details specific to Salina.

Questions. DeBey – how were the 8 counties picked in the pre-planning strategic planning report? Highkin – this was Diane Mataraza’s suggestion with discussion with the staff. Zerger – we need to be careful not to be known as the “center of the arts”. Highkin – what is important is what we need to be doing and what we can be doing - reaching as many people in Salina as we can and meeting their needs.

Museum Update

The new Director of the Museum, Susan Hawksworth, was introduced. Hawksworth discussed her transition period. Some of the main topics were: re-accreditation through American Association of Museums (AAM) starts in September; Santa Fe Day; staff vacancies in (Education Coordinator and Curator of Exhibits); and focusing on where the Museum needs to go after the Gallery renovation.

Other

Highkin discussed the City Commission meeting regarding the landscaping project of North Ohio which passed. DeBey – was there any public attendance? Prickett – yes.

The journal wrote a nice article on the Water Plant project. Prickett – increased communication with the Salina Journal regarding more details has resulted in better articles. DeBey – was there a ceremony of unveiling? There are still some details and the lighting which needs completing. There will be a ceremony once all of this is completed.

Larson – what damage occurred due to the gust of wind during the Festival wind? Hall – some damage in craft area and by the tents by the gates.

Parr – personally thanked Les Slesnick regarding the “The Salina Project” and a big thank you to everyone that made it happen. Larson – “The Salina Project” exhibit is displayed at the Stiefel until August 31st.

Loersch motioned to adjourn the meeting and Benyshek seconded. Motion passed.

Larson closed the meeting at 5:15 p.m.